DETAILED ACTION

This communication is in response to applicant's amendment received on 9/08/10 and the telephonic communication on 9/28/10.

Allowed Claims

In light of applicant's arguments/amendments and the examiner amendment (presented below and authorized by applicant's representative) incorporating the previously indicated allowable subject matter into the independent claims, claims 1, 3, 6, 8-9, 40-51 are allowed.

Examiner Amendment

An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

The following changes were authorized by Andrew Harry in a telephone interview on 9/28/10.

Please replace the presently presented claims with the set of claims as follows:

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    1. (Currently Amended) A recording system in which a host device and a recording drive are connected via a bus,

said host device comprising

a determination module configured to determine ~~means for determining~~ whether input content is to be protected by an encryption process when transferred over the bus,

said recording drive comprising

a recording module configured to record ~~means for recording~~ user data interspersed with user control data in a unit of physical cluster on a recording medium,

wherein the content is recorded in the user data, and protection information is recorded in the user control data, the protection information consisting of a one-bit flag indicating whether the content is to be protected by the encryption process when being transmitted on the bus based on a determination result obtained by said determination module ~~means~~, [[and]]

said host device further comprises a first encryption module configured to encrypt ~~means for encrypting~~ the content using a recording medium key of the recording medium regardless of whether said determination module ~~means~~ determines that the content is to be protected, and

said host device further comprises a second encryption module configured to encrypt the content using a key common to both the host device and the recording drive before being sent to the bus when said determination module determines that the content is to be protected.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A recording system according to claim 1, wherein the unit is 2048 bytes.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A recording system according to claim 1, wherein each of said host device and said recording drive further comprises <u>an</u> authentication <u>module configured to authenticate</u> ~~means for authenticating~~ each other.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A recording system according to claim <u>1</u> [[7]], wherein said second encryption <u>module is configured to prohibit</u> ~~means prohibits~~ the content from being encrypted before being sent to the bus when said determination <u>module</u> ~~means~~ determines that the content is not to be protected.

9. (Currently Amended) A recording method for a recording system in which a host device and a recording drive are connected via a bus, comprising:

determining, at said host device, whether input content is to be protected by an encryption process when transferred over the bus;

recording user data interspersed with user control data in a unit of physical cluster on a recording medium, wherein the content is recorded in the user data, and protection information is recorded in the user control data, the protection information consisting of a one-bit flag indicating whether the content is to be protected by the encryption process when being transmitted on the bus based on a determination result; [[and]]

encrypting, at said host device, the content by using a recording medium key of
the recording medium regardless of whether it is determined that the content is to be
protected, and

encrypting, at said host device, the content using a key common to both the host
device and the recording drive before being sent to the bus when it is determined
that the content is to be protected.

10-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) A recording system in which a host device and a
recording drive are connected via a bus,

said host device comprising

a processor configured to determine whether input content is to be protected
by an encryption process when the content is transferred via the bus,

said recording drive comprising:

a recording unit configured to record user data interspersed with user control
data in a unit of physical cluster on a recording medium,

wherein the content is recorded in the user data, and protection information is
recorded in the user control data, the protection information consisting of a one-bit
flag indicating whether the content is to be protected by the encryption process when
being transmitted on the bus based on a determination result obtained by said
processor, [[and]]

said host device further comprises first encryption unit configured to encrypt the
content by using a recording medium key of the recording medium regardless of
whether said processor determines that the content is to be protected, and

said host device further comprises second encryption unit configured to encrypt the content using a key common to both the host device and the recording drive before being sent to the bus when the processor determines that the content is to be protected.

41. (Previously Presented) The recording system according to claim 1, wherein the physical cluster is grouped into 496 recording frames having 1932 channel bits.

42. (Previously Presented) The recording system according to claim 41, wherein 20 channel bits of a first data set in the physical cluster are set as a synchronizing bit group.

43. (Previously Presented) The recording system according to claim 1, wherein the physical cluster comprises 42 sets, each set including 45 channel bit data and one channel bit control data.

44. (Previously Presented) The recording method of claim 9, wherein the unit is 2048 bytes.

45. (Previously Presented) The recording method of claim 9, wherein the physical cluster is grouped into 496 recording frames having 1932 channel bits.

46. (Previously Presented) The recording method of claim 45, wherein 20 channel bits of a first data set in the physical cluster are set as a synchronizing bit group.

47. (Previously Presented) The recording method of claim 9, wherein the physical cluster comprises 42 sets, each set including 45 channel bit data and one channel bit control data.

48. (Previously Presented) The recording system of claim 40, wherein the unit is 2048 bytes.

49. (Previously Presented) The recording system of claim 40, wherein the physical cluster is grouped into 496 recording frames having 1932 channel bits.

50. (Previously Presented) The recording system of claim 49, wherein 20 channel bits of a first data set in the physical cluster are set as a synchronizing bit group.

51. (Previously Presented) The recording system of claim 40, wherein the physical cluster comprises 42 sets, each set including 45 channel bit data and one channel bit control data.
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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Poltorak whose telephone number is (571) 272-

3840. The examiner can normally be reached from Monday through Thursday from 9:00 until 5:00, and every other Friday from 9:00 until 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on (571) 272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

/PETER POLTORAK/

Examiner, Art Unit 2434

/Kambiz Zand/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2434